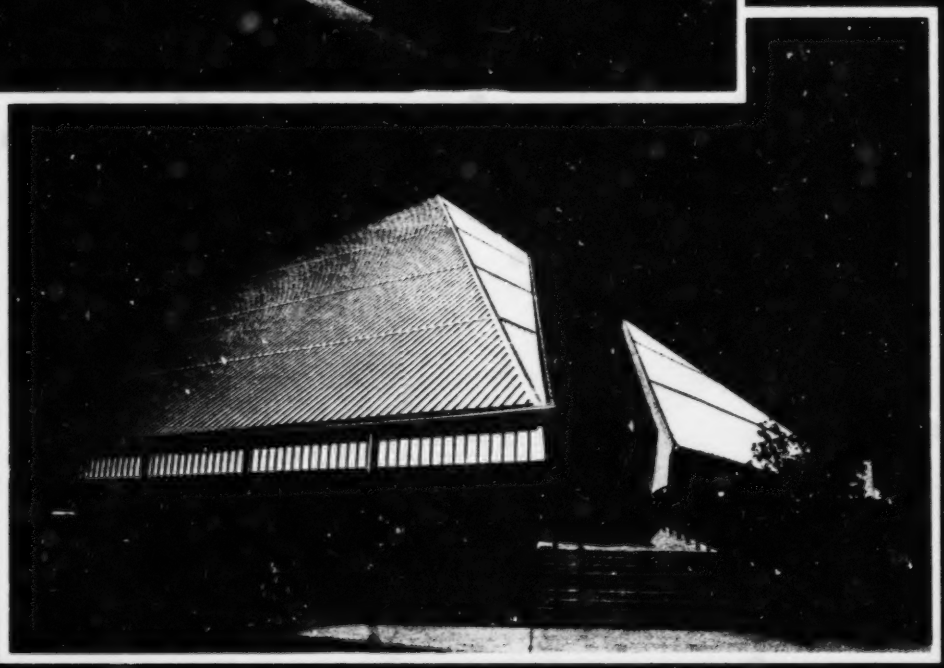
ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT 1984/85



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SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

1984/85

Alberta
CULTURE

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GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

ALBERTA CULTURE
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COVER PHOTOS: *Edmonton Public Library, Strathcona Branch*

Calgary Public Library, Fish Creek Area Branch
(Sonya Toporowski — Photographer)

ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD

Honourable Mary J. LeMessurier
Minister of Culture
131 Legislature Building
EDMONTON, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Madame Minister:

In accordance with the Libraries Act, it is my great pleasure to provide you with the Seventh Annual Report of the Alberta Library Board for the year ending March 31, 1985.

The year has been a busy one and productive in many areas. The Alberta Library Board is a fine group of people to work with and the co-operation I received as Chairman was very encouraging.

Thank you, Madame Minister, for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the continuing development of library services in the Province of Alberta.

Yours sincerely,

Jean M. Lewis.

Jean M. Lewis
Chairman
Alberta Library Board
1984/85

16214 - 114 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5M 2Z5

Introduction

The Alberta Library Board has now been established for seven years as an Advisory Board to the Minister of Culture. The Board derives its authority from the Libraries Act, Chapter L-12.1, 1983 of the Statutes of Alberta.

During the 1984-85 year the Board's mission statement was approved by the Minister.

> "The primary aim of the Alberta Library Board is to advise the Minister of Culture on matters relating to the expansion, development, co-ordination and encouragement of libraries and library services in Alberta.
>
> The Alberta Library Board promotes communication among groups in the library community. To support provincial library growth the Board will encourage library leadership and improve awareness of the public library's role in a democratic society."

The Board also developed a set of goals and objectives for the 1985/86 year which are currently being reviewed by the Minister.

Board Membership

During the 1984-85 year the members of the board were: Mrs. Jean Lewis, High Prairie; Mrs. Elaine Blakey, Red Deer; Mrs. Daphne Betlamini, Morinville; Mrs. Sue Dutton, Calgary; Mr. Ed Halina, Olds; Mr. Bob Maskell, Edmonton and Mr. John Solodzuk, Two Hills. Mrs. Lewis was appointed chairman by the Minister of Culture and Mrs. Blakey was elected vice-chairman of the Board.

Retiring Members

Mr. Bill Schieman of Medicine Hat, who had served on the Board for six years, was retiring chairman (1983-84). He had also served two additional years as chairman in 1978-79 and 1979-80. Dr. Merron Chorny of Calgary, who had been instrumental in proposing and planning "Libraries 2000", also retired after six years. Dr. Christopher Gordon-Craig, who served as chairman in 1980-81, retired after four years with the board.

Newly appointed board members were Mrs. Sue Dutton, a member of the Calgary Public Library Board, Mr. Bob Maskell, principal of the Jasper Place Composite High School in Edmonton and Mr. John Solodzuk, a farmer and chairman of the Two Hills County Library Board.

Alberta Library Board 1984/85: Left-right, top — Ed Halina, Bob Maskell, John Solodzuk. Left-right, bottom — Sue Dutton, Jean Lewis (Chairman), Elaine Blakey. Insert — Daphne Betlamini.

Legislation and Trustee Education

A new Libraries Act came into force April 1, 1984 and the accompanying Library Regulation became effective November 1, 1984.

This new legislation sets out requirements and time lines for public library boards in Alberta to pass by-laws, establish policies, assess public library needs in their communities, and develop relevant goals and objectives. A provincial committee was formed to assist trustees in carrying out these responsibilities. The committee consists of representatives from Alberta Culture Library Services, Alberta Culture Field Services, the Library Association of Alberta, the Alberta Library Trustees Association, and the Alberta Library Board.

In the fall of 1984, thirty-four workshops were held throughout the province to provide information to trustees on drafting and revising library by-laws. Guidance documents on by-laws and policies were also produced and sent to all trustees. The committee is currently addressing the issue of assessment of public library needs. A workshop on needs assessment will be presented in Jasper at the annual LAA/ALTA/LRC conference in May 1985, and a two volume handbook covering methods of needs assessment is planned for distribution in the near future.

The Board approved the granting of financial support for the Canadian Association of Public Libraries and the Canadian Library Trustees Association's program "Workshop in Library Leadership" (W.I.L.L.) to be presented at the annual conference in Calgary (June 1985). This support took the form of the production of a brochure advertising the W.I.L.L. program which was distributed to all trustees in Alberta and assistance in the production of the workbook for the participants. The Board also took an active part in promoting this most worthwhile series of workshops.

The Alberta Library Board's provision of financial and planning support to these activities reflects the value the Board places on continuing education for trustees as an important means of safeguarding and strengthening a strong public library system in Alberta.

Libraries 2000 Committee

A Libraries 2000 follow-up committee was appointed at the meeting of the Board in May, 1984. Board members Elaine Blakey and Ed Halina, joined Vince Richards, of the Library Association of Alberta, Howard Platt, of the Alberta Library Trustees Association, Diane Oberg, of the Learning Resources Council and Joe Forsyth, from Alberta Culture, to form the committee.

The task of this committee was to determine appropriate action to maintain the impetus and carry on the spirit of Libraries 2000 Conference held in 1983.

Letters have been received from many participants congratulating the Board on the scope and content of the seminar, and the Dean of the Faculty of Library Science at the University of Alberta advised that the proceedings would be used in at least one course as resource material on library development in Alberta. In addition to these very positive responses, the Board wanted some definite action that would enlarge the focus of Libraries 2000 to include all people involved with libraries.

A committee meeting held October 30, 1984 resulted in a consensus in favour of the publication of a series of Libraries 2000 occasional papers. The purpose of the papers will be to present information and stimulate discussion on issues of interest to the library community. The contents of the papers are not intended to be the opinion of the committee or of the Board and a statement to that effect will be inserted into each pamphlet.

Of the suggestions put forward the committee chose for the first topic — the economic justification of libraries and a publication, entitled "Why Public Libraries?" to be written by Dr. Malcolm Getz. Dr. Getz has completed extensive research on this subject; editorial assistance has been provided by the Library Association of Alberta. Publication and distribution of the paper is expected to be completed in the summer of 1985.

The Board was gratified to learn that the Minister of Citizenship and Culture in Ontario has decided to hold a futures conference entitled Libraries 2000 and modelled it on the successful 1983 conference in Alberta.

Library Systems Development

Board members continued to monitor the growth and expansion of the province's three existing library systems — Parkland, Yellowhead and Marigold, and followed the progress of the three library development projects in the Peace, the Northeast and Southeast by attending meetings and reviewing system and project publications and documentation. Of special interest was the progress of the Marigold Library Board's $30,000 community development project. Although no new municipalities have joined Marigold, plans are being finalized to make formal presentations to non-participating councils in 1985.

1984 also marked the 25th anniversary of the Parkland Regional Library and several board members attended gala celebrations which were held in October. Both the Parkland and Yellowhead systems continued working on plans for upgrading their automation capabilities and for expanding the geographical areas to be served.

Board members Jean Lewis and Elaine Blakey attended the Parkland 25th Anniversary celebrations in October 1984 and looked on as the Minister of Culture, Mary J. LeMessurier, and M.L.A. Ron Moore presented a gift to Parkland Board Chairman Ed Halina.

In 1984 the Peace Region Co-operative Library Project began full operation with a major development grant from Alberta Culture. Activity over the year included the opening of an office in the Peace River Provincial Building, completion and acceptance by the participating libraries of a Plan of Service, budget costings for the plan, a fourth draft of the system agreement and a draft sub-agreement between the future system and the Grande Prairie Library Board which will act as the major resource centre for the system. The project also sponsored the new systems newsletter **Wild Rose Rising** which has received enthusiastic response from the library community throughout the province. Alberta Library Board members, Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Betlamini attended many meetings as part of their liaison responsibilities.

The steering committee of the Shortgrass Library Project was also very busy. Major activities included a board development workshop, development of a mission statement, goals and objectives document, completion of audio visual and technical service surveys, the preparation of the Plan of Service, and the commissioning of a new logo. Members of the steering committee also conducted study tours of the Parkland and Marigold systems and the Chinook Regional Library in Swift Current, Saskatchewan. Alberta Library Board member, Sue Dutton provided liaison with this project.

Board member Ed Halina addressed the Peace Library Project workshop in March.

The three year old Northern Lights project in the Bonnyville area came to a successful conclusion December 31, 1984. The steering committee and other librarians and trustees in the northeast judged that it had generated such positive results that a new committee was formed to set up an area-wide development project which will investigate the establishment of a regional library system in the northeast. John Solodzuk was the Board member who maintained liaison with this project.

Board member John Solodzuk attended the Northeast Library Trustees Association executive meeting in September 1984.

Throughout the province, development continued to take place at the local level. The Board was pleased to see municipal library boards established in the counties of Smoky Lake and Camrose, the Municipal District of Peace and the village of Amisk. As the Alberta Library Board is responsible for making recommendations regarding community libraries to the Minister, it developed a policy for the dissolution of such libraries when the municipalities in which they are located form a municipal library board or join a library system. The key elements of the policy are:

— A need exists for a continuing community presence within library systems. In the past community boards have handled the day-to-day operation of the library, garnered community support and promoted development from community to municipal and/or system status.

— Within system and/or counties, community boards serve in a similar role.

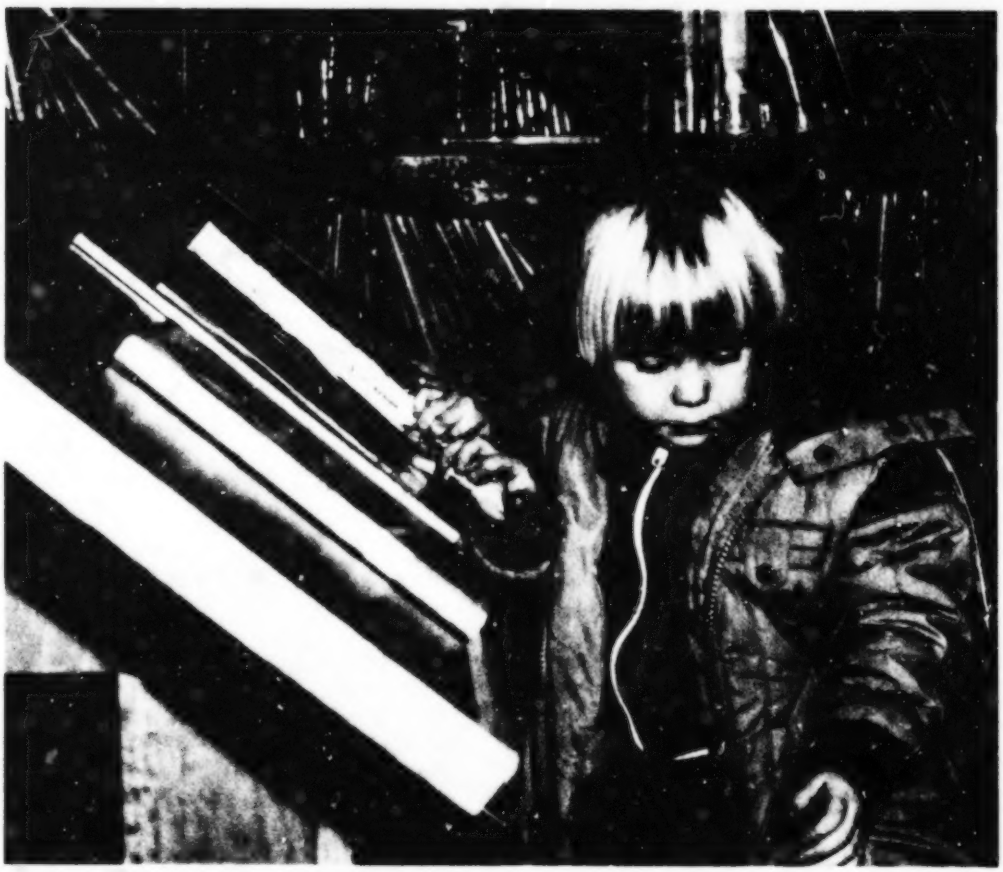
— When community boards fulfill that role, they should be incorporated into the total library structure for that area.

— When a community board is no longer fulfilling that role, consideration should be given to dissolving that board when:

a. the community board no longer exists,
b. responsibility has been transferred to a municipal board,
or c. a community library requests dissolution.

This policy has been approved by the Minister.

Finally 41 libraries completed new facilities or major renovations, in contrast to 20 the previous year.



A young reader explores the collection at the opening of the new Innisfail Library.

Resource Sharing

In response to serious concerns emerging around resource sharing issues, an ad hoc committee of the Board recommended that the Board obtain input from the library community and report to the Minister, with an emphasis on funding and future resource sharing planning. The Board accepted this recommendation and is currently looking at viable action plans to obtain views of all concerned with and affected by the resource sharing network in Alberta.

Provincial resource sharing activities expanded again in 1984 with a 16% increase in interlibrary loans and a 6% increase in zenith questions. The directors of the resource libraries in the province have discussed and agreed upon a document which details the kind of information service Albertans should expect from their local library, regional library systems and resource libraries throughout the province. This can now be used as the basis for future discussions on resource sharing. As sharing of library resources increasingly benefits many thousands of Albertans, a considered plan for the future of resource sharing is becoming even more crucial.

Extension Library

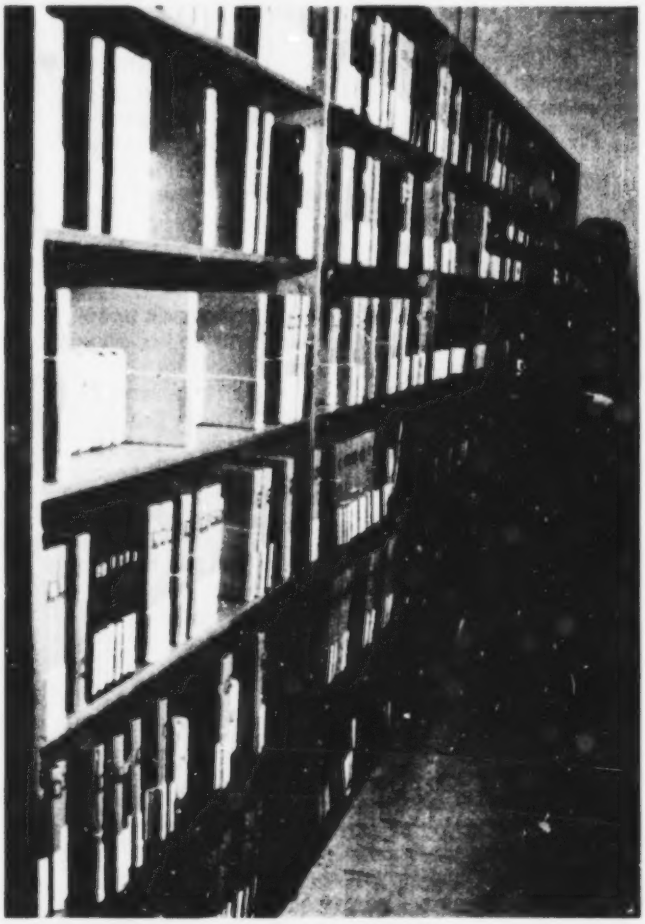
At the request of the Alberta Library Board, the staffs of the Library Services Branch and the Extension Library of the University of Alberta structured, distributed and compiled the results of a comprehensive survey of Extension Library users. The questionnaire was directed at determining the number of users, their geographic locations, their proximity to existing public library service points and their preferences of library service agencies.

Copies of the compiled questionnaire results have been circulated to the interested jurisdictions — the University of Alberta Extension Library, directors of the Marigold, Parkland and Yellowhead Library Systems, Library Services Branch and members of the Alberta Library Board.

Representatives from each of the above named groups, and the Department of Advanced Education, have been invited to discuss the findings of the questionnaire. It is hoped that an examination of the findings will provide directions relative to the role played by the Extension Library in the public library community in Alberta.

Services to the Handicapped

Over 3,000 talking book titles are now available for the use of people unable to read conventional print. During 1984, 139 public libraries circulated 50,794 books to 3,301 readers. This was a 50% increase in the number of libraries using talking books; a 30% increase in circulation; and a 17% increase in the number of users over 1983.



In 1964 there was a 30% increase in the use of the more than 3,000 talking book titles available to public libraries in the province.

Multilingual Biblioservice

Research on the library needs of the Francophone community in Alberta was completed in 1984. This indicates a need to emphasize consultative help to libraries in providing service to Franco-Albertans, as well as to other ethnocultural groups.

Printed catalogues of almost 28,000 titles in 30 languages are available to all libraries. In 1984, 25,792 volumes were circulated, an increase of 19% over 1983.

Library Funding

Late in the fiscal year the Minister of Culture announced that annual grants for library operations would be raised in 1985 — the first such increase in two years. In commenting on this funding hike, Mrs. LeMessurier said, "Especially in times of fiscal restraint our libraries provide an economical source of information and entertainment which is greatly appreciated and enjoyed by an increasing number of individuals.

There are many growing demands upon present library services and we hope that these larger grants will enable us to maintain what is already an excellent library system in this province." Library grants will be raised by 5% or a minimum of $600 whichever is the greater. No increase in matching municipal contributions is required to access this additional funding.

The Board is pleased to see this continuing support for the operation of public libraries and that local municipalities were not required to match the provincial increase.

In October of 1984 the Board was also pleased to see the establishment of the Alberta Foundation for the Literary Arts (AFLA) by the Government of Alberta. Funding for the foundation will be received from the Western Canada Lottery Foundation (Alberta Division) up to a maximum of $800,000 per annum. Two of its goals are to:

1. support and contribute to the publishing and marketing of the literary works of Albertans by assisting and developing library services and the book and periodical industry in Alberta, and,
2. promote and contribute to the development of the literary arts in Alberta.

Dr. Christopher Gordon-Craig, former Alberta Library Board member, is one of the fifteen person Foundation board.

School Libraries

In October of 1984, Alberta Education released a major document entitled **Policy, Guidelines, Procedures and Standards for School Libraries** in Alberta. The adoption of this provincial policy is seen by the Board as an essential first step towards the development of a school library program that meets the present and future needs of our students. Special one time resource grants were also made available to school jurisdictions. The Board noted that the importance of school libraries was also recognized in the provincial grants discussion paper on secondary education "Foundations for the Future" and in the final report of the Ghitter Committee on Tolerance and Understanding. The Board was pleased to see that Alberta Culture was represented on two committees established to implement the Guidelines — the model school library program committee and the ad hoc committee set up to examine the benefits that library systems can provide to school libraries. It is anticipated that this activity will assist in promoting full co-operation between school and public libraries.

Scholarship Awards

Alberta Library Bursary

The Alberta Library Bursary, of $4,000, given to a student of Library Science, was awarded to Agnes Yvonne Mack of Calgary. A committee of the Board selected Ms. Mack from a field of 11 candidates. Ms. Mack had worked in the Calgary Public Library and the University of Calgary library prior to beginning her studies at the University of British Columbia School of Librarianship.

Research Fellowship

In September, 1984, a Research Fellowship Committee was established to examine two things:

1. Why no one had applied for the Fellowship for two years.
2. Ways to make the Fellowship more attractive to possible applicants.

The committee recommended that the wording of the advertisement be revised and that more effort be placed on liaison with the Faculty of Library Science at the University of Alberta. In September a meeting with John Wright, Dean of the Faculty of Library Science, was held to encourage student applicants for the Fellowship, which could assist with research that forms part of the requirements for their degree program.

Three applications were received for the Research Fellowship in January, 1985. All applicants were interviewed and the award was jointly awarded to Bryan and Barbara Huston of Lethbridge to enable them to conduct a study of student use of a public library.

Communication

Reports of the Board's activities were submitted to **Alberta Library News** for every issue, and in the Fall 1984 issue the following article appeared:

> "The following list of responsibilities and functions reveals a clearly defined mandate which places the Alberta Library Board at the centre of activity in the library community of Alberta.
>
> - Advises the Minister of Culture with respect to Section 6 of the Libraries Act.
> - Considers matters referred to it by the Minister.
> - Receives input from the general public and organizations.
> - Receives input from library boards and trustees, library associations, and the Library Services Branch.
> - Receives and reviews reports from other agencies for consideration.
> - Provides a mechanism through which individuals and groups can get together to discuss library development.
> - Recommends to the Minister regarding study and research awards.
> - Initiates research and makes recommendations to the Minister on the results.
> - Co-operates with library groups to encourage library development.
> - Makes recommendations on the establishment and dissolution of community libraries.
> - Informs itself on library development."

Liaison With Other Groups

A liaison meeting between the Board, the Library Association of Alberta and the Alberta Library Trustees Association took place in January 1985 and was attended by Jean Lewis and Elaine Blakey for the Board, Vince Richards for LAA and Howard Platt for ALTA. A wide range of topics was discussed including occasional papers, the Libraries Act and Regulation, and the development of library systems.

"We seem to be going through an era of co-operation" was the appreciation expressed by Howard Platt of ALTA for the continued contact between the three bodies.

ACCESS Network President Peter Semchuk, in his inaugural address on the occasion of the beginning of satellite transmission, focused on "lifelong learning." The ACCESS Network may provide the vehicle for a better mesh between libraries and television. For example, specific suggestions to visit the local library and/or reading lists of material available at libraries may encourage library use. ACCESS now has available a $1000 grant to assist small communities, which are not served by cable, to purchase satellite dishes. Libraries are one of the community organizations eligible for this grant and the Board has encouraged them to apply. The ALB has written to ACCESS to discuss mutual support.

L.I.R.N. (Library Information Resource in the Northwest) has been organized as the result of a $3.4 million dollar bequest that is intended to encourage resource sharing in the Northwest. Alaska and the Northwestern states seem to be the present interpretation of the term "Northwest", but geography suggests the possible inclusion of British Columbia and Alberta. The Library Association of Alberta hopes Canada will be a part of research and surveys that may be undertaken. The Board has contacted major libraries in the province to determine if they are interested in finding out more about L.I.R.N. and participating in the first project, an analysis of collection development strategy.

The Board continues to work on its effectiveness in the library community, emphasizing the need for a tangible way to communicate its role. Some of the ways that this was achieved were:

A. Representation on committees such as Trustee Education and the inclusion of ALTA and LAA representatives on Board committees, such as Libraries 2000.

B. Getting involved with trustee education, as shown by the participation in the legislation workshops.

C. Convening an information session at the Jasper Conference, scheduled near the beginning of the Conference, so that delegates can personally identify the individuals on the Board and feel free to approach them later.

D. Active participation in the Canadian Library Association conference and, specifically, the W.I.L.L. program.

The Board formally met ten times during the year. In addition, the Board met with all the units of the Library Services Branch in order to become more familiar with their work.

Joe Forsyth, Director of Alberta Culture Library Services and Board members Elaine Blakey, Ed Halina and Daphne Bettamini attended the Library Association of Alberta/Alberta Library Trustees Association Conference in Jasper.

Conferences and Workshops

Representatives of the Board attended the following conferences:

The Canadian Library Association (Toronto)
The American Library Association (Dallas, USA)
The LAA/ALTA/LRC Annual Conference (Jasper)
The New Librarians' Orientation Workshop (Edmonton)
Trustee By-law Workshops throughout the province
Peace Library Project Area Workshop (Peace River)

Other gatherings included the attendance at, or sending greetings to, the following libraries on the occasion of their official openings.

Ponoka	Edberg
Sylvan Lake	Radway
St. Albert	Sedgewick
Smoky Lake	Lethbridge (bookmobile)
Innisfail	Grimshaw
Barrhead	Strathcona Branch (Edmonton Public Library)

Board member Ed Halina speaking with librarian Esther Dube at the Sylvan Lake Library opening, April 1984.

Conclusion

The past year has been exciting and significant because of the successful introduction of the new legislation, the continued growth of provincial services and library projects and the increase in grants to school and public libraries.

The Board wishes to acknowledge the excellent support it has continued to receive from the Minister, the Honourable Mary J. LeMessurier. In addition, Mr. J. Forsyth and his capable staff have provided much appreciated assistance and research.

The Board feels optimistic about the potential for the long-range future of library services and development in the years ahead. We are moving into a new information age and the Board is confident that, based on the current foundation, libraries will be able to play a key role in the emerging new economy.